

has been a great public servant for the people of New Jersey and has served over twenty three years at the Ocean County Board of Elections. Mr. Santoro is retiring after many years of outstanding service from his position as Secretary-Commissioner with the Ocean County Board of Elections at the end of July.

Born and raised in Newark, Al Santoro became involved in civic duty at a young age under the wings of his father, Raymond Santoro, who served as a Councilman in Newark. After completing his education, Mr. Santoro served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 in Germany.

During his tenure at the Ocean County Board of Elections, Al Santoro has been an important part in making our democracy work. His efforts helped ensure that the electoral mechanisms in place succeeded and that our elections are fair and just to all. The lifeblood of our democracy is the assurance that our political process works and that its integrity is not in question. Al Santoro has helped to make that a reality for the citizens of Ocean County. Surely, there can be no higher calling in our Republic.

So, I join the people of Ocean County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Al Santoro for his outstanding service to the community.●

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE W. ALLEN

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to recognize a man whose lifelong dedication to civic, military, and religious service has enriched not just my State of Nevada but the Nation as a whole.

Jesse W. Allen grew up in the poverty-stricken era of the Great Depression in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After losing his father at the age of fourteen, Mr. Allen dropped out of grade school in order to support his family. His labor taught him responsibility, integrity, and the value of hard work. Mr. Allen embraced these values and imparted them on others throughout his life.

At age 17, Jesse Allen enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In his forty-one months of service, Jesse proudly served his country; first by dodging German submarines across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the U.S.S. *Texas*, and then by fighting off Japanese fire and suicide bombers as a gun captain in the South Pacific. By the time Mr. Allen was honorably discharged in 1945, he had received 13 Battle Stars, a Silver Star, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

After leaving the service, Jesse returned to Tennessee where he made up for his lack of a formal education by acquiring his GED and enrolling in Tennessee Temple Bible College. For three years, he worked full time at night in a woolen mill so that he could support his family while attending college on the GI Bill. This hard work paid off in 1948 when Mr. Allen was ordained as a minister.

Jesse began spreading Christian principles throughout the United States on street corners, in jails, nursing homes, home meetings, and even in the tuberculosis sanatorium. Eventually, he established many churches and drew such a following that his preaching was carried on radio stations throughout the Southeast.

Jesse lived by the same Christian values that he preached. He went into the bootleggers' back woods, where he dared to go, to bring out the sick and elderly who needed to see a doctor. He worked with families suffering from marriage problems and with troubled teens throughout the Nation. My home State, Nevada benefitted from his passion as Mr. Allen worked with abused, neglected, and abandoned children at the Southern Nevada Children's Home in Boulder City, and later, as he opened his own home to afflicted youths from Clark County. His group home achieved record success rates for Clark County Juvenile Services for five consecutive years, earning him a commission as an Honorary Deputy Constable.

Today, Mr. Allen is the father of four and the grandfather of fourteen. He has lived an exemplary life of patriotism, citizenship, and dedicated service. He overcame the obstacles of his impoverished upbringing to help others, using values that inspire those he touches to do the same. For this reason, I am proud to recognize Mr. Jesse W. Allen. Men like him are rare, but are one of our country's greatest assets.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS A. PANKOK, FORMER NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYMAN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Thomas A. Pankok. Mr. Pankok has been a great public servant and an outstanding member of the community over the years.

Mr. Pankok currently resides in Pennsville, New Jersey. He married Alma Land in 1958 with whom he has three children, Thomas Pankok Jr., Kathy and Timothy and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Pankok is a graduate of Salem High School and a veteran of the United States Navy. He served four years during the Korean conflict. In 1956, after his tour of duty, Thomas Pankok began a lengthy career with Bell Telephone Company, serving 30 years with the company.

In 1981, Thomas Pankok was elected to the State Assembly. As a member of the Assembly, Mr. Pankok served two terms and authored many important pieces of legislation. After his first term in the Assembly, he was awarded with the "Freshman Legislator of the Year" award, presented by the State Association of Counties.

In addition, to his work in the State Assembly, Thomas Pankok also served over 15 years as a Salem County Freeholder. The role of state and local government is vital to our democracy.

For our federal system of government to succeed, we must have effective and committed leaders at the state and local level. The United States Congress needs and relies on partners like Thomas Pankok in local government and I salute him and thank him for his efforts.

So, I join with Salem County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Thomas A. Pankok, an outstanding public servant, citizen, veteran and father. His efforts upon the behalf of the people of Salem County have been vital to the community and are much appreciated.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 7, 2000 in Los Angeles, CA. A woman ran over a 65-year-old Hispanic man, Jesus Plascencia, twice in a parking lot. Authorities say that the perpetrator made comments about her hatred of Hispanics after the death and referred to the victim as "dead road kill." The assailant was charged with murder and hate crimes in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE FIREFIGHTERS SELFLESSLY FIGHTING NATIONAL BLAZES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the status of the National Fire Plan, the 2002 Wildfire season and the Delawareans who risked their lives to save others. Since January 1, over 47,000 wildfires have burned more than 3,200,000 acres around the country. The vast majority of these fires have been small, just a few acres at most; however, several have been massive fires consuming hundreds or thousands of acres. To those living nearest these fires, they have suffered a tremendous loss. But thanks to the outstanding effort and tireless dedication of firefighters from around the country, many of these large wildfires have been suppressed, and the smaller fires have been prevented from growing larger.

While wildfires tend to be a greater problem in the West, concern for the residents, for their health, for their